

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, August 25, 2006*

## AS STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL, MPDC STRESSES SAFETY, ESPECIALLY AROUND NEWLY "RIGHTSIZED" SCHOOLS

As students return to DC Public Schools for the 2006-07 school year, the MPDC is looking to build on the progress from last year in making schools even safer. Police are paying special attention in and around newly "rightsized" schools, especially in Northeast and Southeast, where students will be attending new schools this fall because their former schools were closed. For the second year in a row, the MPDC has overall management responsibility for school security, which is carried out through a coordinated effort involving both private security personnel and sworn police officers. For 2006-07, the MPDC is maintaining its enhanced presence in the schools: 99 School Resource Officers and 15 field supervisors, who are supported by staff in the MPDC's School Security Division. Under its contract with the District, DC-based Hawk One Security continues to oversee hiring, screening and assigning of more than 300 security personnel who work in the schools. In addition to focusing on school safety issues citywide, the MPDC is paying particular attention to areas where school "rightsizing" has resulted in some students going to new schools – and having to cross through different neighborhoods to get there. The MPDC has worked with DCPS, Metro, the District Department of Transportation, the Peaceaholics, and other government and community organizations to develop a "safe passages" plan around various rightsized schools in Northeast and Southeast DC. The plan includes the development of recommended routes for students to walk to school using the safest routes possible. The routes emphasize the use of signalized intersections, four-way stops and locations with crossing guards. Resources are also being devoted to enhance supervision on Metrobuses used by students in the area.

- ① For questions or additional information about school safety, email Capt. Kevin Anderson at: [kevin.anderson2@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.anderson2@dc.gov).
- ① For a variety of informative resources on school safety, visit: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547515,mpdcNav\\_GID,1549,mpdcNav,.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547515,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,.asp)
- ① While most students in DC walk or are driven to school, some do ride school buses. School bus safety tips – for drivers, students and parents – are available at: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547501,mpdcNav\\_GID,1549,mpdcNav,.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547501,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,.asp)
- ① The DC Attorney General's Officer reminds parents and guardians that they could face criminal penalties if their children are not properly immunized for school. For information on immunization requirements, go to: <http://www.k12.dc.us/dcps/health.htm>

## POLICE FUND PRESENTS FIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS NAMED IN HONOR OF CHIEF RAMSEY

Five college students from the Washington, DC area who have demonstrated strong academic achievement and leadership skills were recognized by the Washington DC Police Fund with scholarship awards named in honor of MPDC Chief Ramsey, for his dedication to youth crime prevention, opportunity and development. The students and their families were honored at Police Headquarters Friday afternoon during a ceremony attended by the Chief, representatives of the Police Fund, and other supporters. Each of the students is receiving a \$1,000 scholarship award for the upcoming academic year. Supported by DC-area business and civic leaders, the Washington DC Police Fund is an innovative 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization dedicated to improving public safety and enhancing youth opportunity throughout the District of Columbia. The college scholarship program was announced at the Police Fund's Awards Ceremony in June. The five recipients were all recommended by MPDC members for their academic achievement and leadership. Three of the students – upper classmen at Morgan State and East Tennessee State universities – were counselors this summer at the Police Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington's Camp Brown and were recommended by Lieutenant Daniel Ewell, who co-directs the Camp. The other two students – freshmen at Shaw University in Durham, NC – were recommended by School Resource Officer Neva Taylor, who knew the students through her work with youth at Spingarn Senior High School.

- ① Read the full news release at: <http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9551/year/2006>
- ① Established in 2000 under the Federal City Council, the Washington DC Police Fund operates as an advised fund under the auspices of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. Learn more at: <http://www.federalcitycouncil.org/policefund.html>

## LAST "WAVE" OF SMOOTH OPERATOR 2006 KICKS OFF

Maybe you have heard one of the radio advertisements or seen a bus billboard, warning motorists about the dangers of aggressive driving. Or maybe you've seen more police officers out writing tickets for traffic offenses such as speeding, running red lights and stop signs, tailgating and making unsafe lane changes. The fact is that this summer not just the MPDC, but law enforcement across the region has been emphasizing the dangers of aggressive driving. And law enforcement has been backing up that message with action, in the form of tickets. The period from August 27 through September 9 marks the last of four law enforcement "waves" for this year's Smooth Operator program. During that period, MPDC officers will be paying particular attention to a variety of aggressive driving behaviors, as they did during the first three "waves" this summer. During those three waves, in fact, the MPDC issued more than 55,000 citations for various aggressive driving violations. This total includes both automated and officer-issued tickets. Second District officers issued more 2,200 tickets alone. Since Smooth Operator began in 1997, close to 1 million citations for aggressive driving have been issued by participating law enforcement agencies throughout the region during the special enforcement waves. Following up on recent research showing that large majorities of "everyday" drivers admit to driving aggressively at some time or another, the theme of the 2006 Smooth Operator campaign is "I'm an aggressive driver. I'm going to stop, or get tickets, fines & points."

## LATEST PHOTO ENFORCEMENT DATA ARE RELEASED

After reaching a record low rate of 1.9 percent in June 2006, aggressive speeding in DC's photo radar enforcement zones rose slightly during July 2006. Still, last month's aggressive speeding rate of 2.4 percent was lower than any of the previous figures for July, since the program began in July 2001. That month, which represented the program's initial warning period, the aggressive speeding rate was almost 31 percent. Since then, it has declined steadily, to about 10 percent in July 2002, 8 percent in July 2003, 4.4 percent in July 2004, and 3.7 percent in July 2005. The "aggressive speeding rate" represents the percentage of vehicles passing through the District's photo radar enforcement zones that are traveling above the threshold speed established for the program. During July 2006, more than 2.4 million vehicles were monitored by the District's stationary and mobile photo radar cameras, but just 59,000 were found to be speeding aggressively. Since August 2001, just under 2 million photo radar Notices of Infraction have been mailed and 1.5 million have been paid, resulting in fines of nearly \$114 million. This level of consistent speeding enforcement has been achieved without taking officers from other community policing assignments or otherwise diminishing public safety services in DC's neighborhoods.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Updated Crime Emergency Statistics Now Available.** Chief Ramsey declared a crime emergency on July 11, following a spike in violent crime across the District. The MPDC is now publishing both daily updates on crime reductions since the emergency declaration, as well as weekly statistics on police activity. Access these and other data at [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543308,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1239,q,543308,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp).

**National Night Out Information Sought.** The MPDC is preparing its final report on National Night Out 2006. The Department is seeking photos, videos, news clippings, program books or other materials documenting NNO efforts across the District. If you have materials to share, please send them to Kevin Palmer, MPDC, 300 Indiana Avenue, NW, Rm. 4056, WDC 20001, or via email at [kevin.palmer@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.palmer@dc.gov).

- ① For more information, visit:  
<http://www.smoothoperatorprogram.com>
- ① Learn more about the MPDC's participation in Smooth Operator at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547928,mpdcNav\\_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547928,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp)
- ① Individuals can now report aggressive driving to the Smooth Operator program online. This information will help identify future enforcement locations. Details at:  
[http://www.smoothoperatorprogram.com/aggressive\\_reporting.php](http://www.smoothoperatorprogram.com/aggressive_reporting.php)
- ① Get the latest information at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548110,mpdcNav\\_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548110,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp)
- ① At DC intersections equipped with traffic safety cameras, red-light running has been reduced by 69 percent, according to the latest data. Details at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547886,mpdcNav\\_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp)

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 8/25/06
◆ 2006: 114	
◆ 2005: 121	
◆ % Change: -5.8%	
◆ Closure Rate: 48.2% (55 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 8/19/06
◆ Total: 1,085	
◆ Weapons: 31	
◆ Robbery: 16	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 20	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 30	
◆ Narcotics: 200	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	week end. 8/19/06
◆ Arrests: 51	
◆ Robbery: 1	
◆ Weapons: 4	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 4	
◆ Curfew Violators: 331	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 8/22/06
◆ August: 123	
◆ 2006 Total: 1,509	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 8/25/06
◆ 2006: 27	
◆ 2005: 26	
◆ % Change: +3.8%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to KEVIN MORISON, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with [Crimereports.com](http://Crimereports.com).

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